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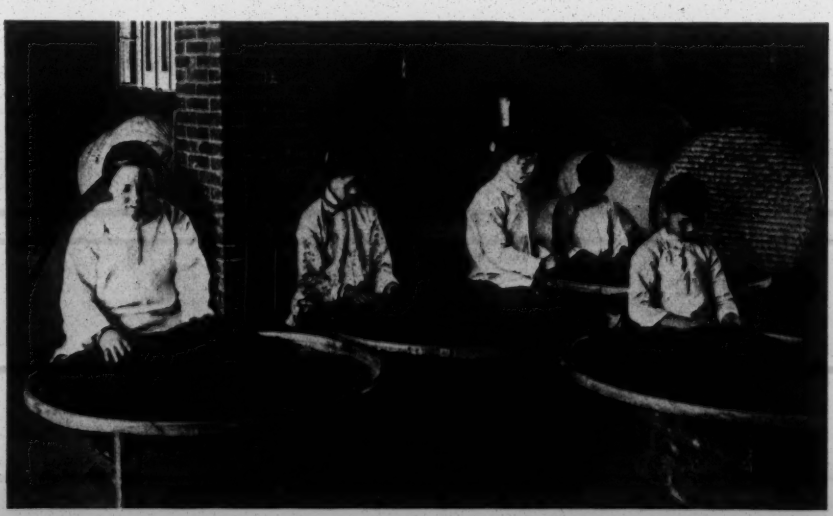
General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF MARCH 3, 1924. Vol. II. No. 30.

1. Cosmopolitan Amoy Lacks Movies.
2. Church Treasuries.
3. Miquelon, Forget-me-not of France's American Empire.
4. Uncle Sam Charts the Compass.
5. Karagatch, Given to Turkey, Taken from Greece.



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TEA-PICKING GIRLS IN FORMOSA. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Cosmopolitan Amoy Lacks Movies

PRESS reports and consular reports are featuring Amoy, China. Consular reports say Amoy has no movies.

Press reports tell of recent riots in this coast port between Formosans and the troops of General Chang over the killing of seven Formosan residents of Amoy. Some years ago such a riot would have been a domestic affair, since the island of Formosa was part of the province of Fukien, of which Amoy was a leading city, but now it is an international incident since Formosa now belongs to Japan, by whom it has been renamed Taiwan.

Accustomed as we are to think of the motion picture as an invader of the most remote places of the world it is surprising to find an American consul recently recommending their introduction in this busy, cosmopolitan port of China's coast.

If you ever purchased narcissus bulbs or "Irish lace" in one of the Chinese stores in almost any large American city, or ate in a Chinese restaurant, used the soy sauce and had preserved Chinese fruit for dessert, it is likely that you are a patron of Amoy's industries.

Irish Lace and Narcissus Bulbs

Though Amoy has been impervious to the "movies" she reached out to Holland for the bulbs which constitute an important export. An altruistic lady brought from Ireland the linen thread and patterns which set her women working at bobbin lace making. The city has so many kinds of currency that trade is hampered by the difficulty of making definite exchange rates.

In a morning's trading you might acquire the silver yen of Formosa, the Hongkong silver dollar, and the piaster of Indo-China, in addition to various kinds of paper money issued by Chinese and Japanese banks. When you went to deposit your change in an Amoy bank your account would be in terms of an extinct currency unit—the so-called Spanish dollar. And to save bookkeeping the bank will consider all your real dollars as having the same value in relation to the hypothetical "dollar" unit.

Amoy's Stalwart Sons Emigrate

Though it has a fine natural harbor and a strategic trade location opposite the middle of Taiwan (Formosa), Amoy suffers from its hinterland's poverty. Fukien, of which it is the port, is one of the least developed regions of eastern China. It is mountainous and its valleys once were fertile, but centuries of cultivation have exhausted their soil. Consequently Fukien's most stalwart sons emigrate to the Philippines, the Straits Settlements or to the Dutch East Indies. More than 60,000 have left annually, in recent years.

Because the mountain ranges parallel the coast, rivers are short and the interior is inaccessible. There are practically no roads. The principal lines of communication are narrow footpaths, raised a foot or so above the fields. One writer says, "The only commissioner of their highways is the tramp of ceaseless thousands bearing their heavy burdens over them, from one generation to another." There are no fences, and no signposts.

Yak and Buffalo Domesticated

Traveling along these paths one may observe primitive kinds of agriculture. Human backs bend over rude hoes. Occasionally a more progressive farmer will acquire a one-handled plow with a hardwood plowshare, and hitch it to

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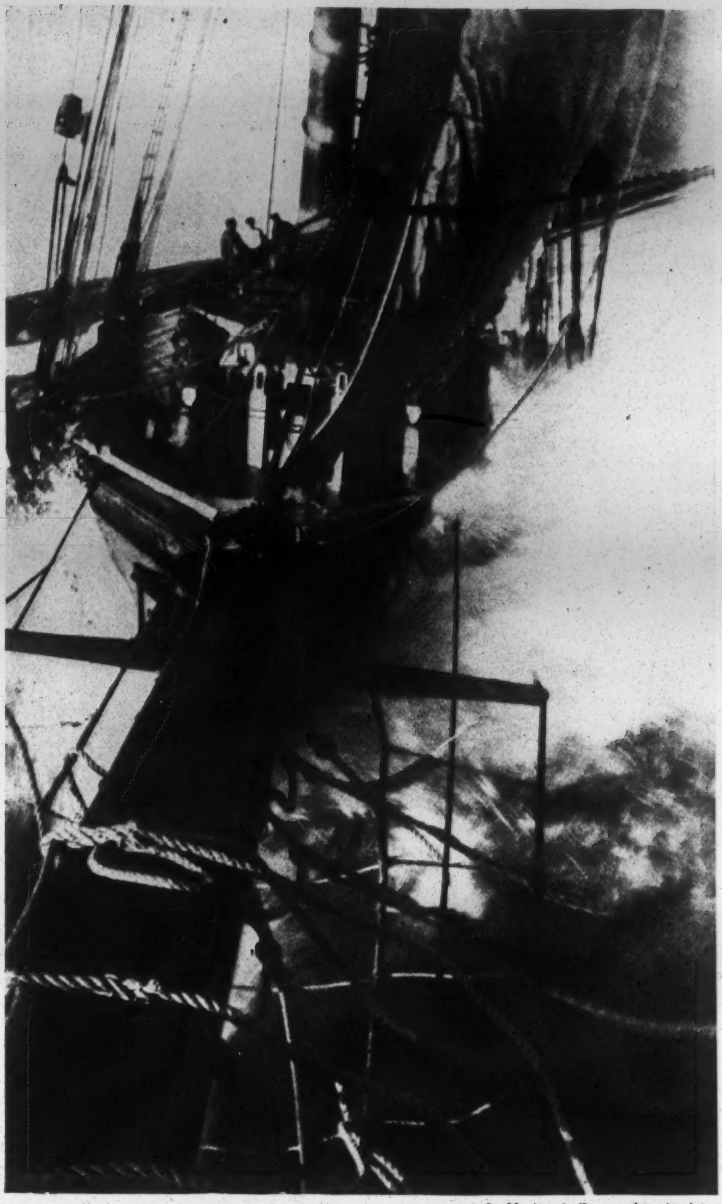

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SIXTEEN KNOTS IN A DECEMBER BLOW.

This photograph was taken from the bowsprit of a Grand Banks fishing-schooner a few moments before it became imperative to reduce sail. (See Bulletin No. 3.)

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Church Treasuries

RECENT return to the United States of an American priest commissioned to obtain the release of church property and priests held by the Soviet government, and the reported success of this mission, call attention to the wealth of church treasuries.

Since the dawn of history people have been lavish with their gifts for religious purposes, whether they worshiped idols or an unseen God.

The result is that in all ages treasure, usually in the form of gold and silver and precious stones, has flowed to temples and churches, monasteries and other religious institutions. In any period and in most parts of the world, then, except during recent decades in the West, a considerable part of the liquid wealth of the world has been in ecclesiastical hands. Only the treasuries of temporal princes surpassed those of the religious institutions, and in some instances, as in Tibet, the monasteries and temples held practically all the country's treasure.

Old and New Religions Use Gold

Archeologists find that the pagan temples of civilizations dead for thousands of years were ornamented with a wealth of precious metals. Indian temples of several faiths have had their rich treasuries and their ornaments of gold and silver for centuries; and they have made use as well of a glittering array of diamonds, rubies, sapphires and other jewels. Many an idol today, from the dim interiors of Indian temples, looks out through eyes of great lustrous, precious stones, and wears other gems worth the ransom of an emperor.

Christianity had to fight for its life for the first three hundred years of its existence, and its rites were carried on in the simplicity that secrecy made necessary. But with its official recognition came the tendencies which had marked most of the openly accepted religions which had gone before, toward the making of gifts to churches by devout followers and powerful patrons, and toward the use of more elaborate and costly paraphernalia in the services. Constantine, first Christian Emperor of Rome, lavished gifts on St. Peter's church in Rome and on Sancta Sophia in his new capital, Constantinople. He thus had a hand in enriching the two most famous, and once the two richest, churches in Christendom.

Church Treasures Often Looted

The marked enrichment of Christian churches began in earnest in Italy and the East in the fifth and sixth centuries and spread in early medieval times to France and other western countries. Not only did the churches accumulate gold chalices, patens, candelabra, and other small objects, but many had large screens of gold and silver, as well as fonts and statues. To a few of the churches altars of solid gold were presented, but later church regulations prescribed stone and wood as the only permissible materials for altars. Precious stones also came into use to ornament images of the saints or as gifts to them. Thus the Sacred Baby of the Church of Ara Coeli in Rome has been given over a period of many years a wealth of jewels.

The accumulation of treasure by temples and churches and monasteries has not been unbroken. Time and time again these convenient stores of precious

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one or the other of Fukien's two domestic animals, a water buffalo or a hybrid yak.

Much of the agricultural land is held by clans and farmed on a community basis, with the head of the clan presiding over this ancient Soviet system.

Railroads are lacking in Fukien. The Chinese started to build one from Amoy to Changchowfu, of which Amoy is the natural port, but trains run only 17 of the 33 miles between the two populous cities because a bridge has not been built across the Kiulungkiang River at Polham.

Just fifty years ago Amoy shipped to the United States 7,500,000 pounds of tea in a single season. In 1899 it shipped 31,000 pounds, which was the last shipment. The decline in our importation is indicative of the decline in Amoy's tea trade. First, Formosa (Taiwan) surpassed the quality of the Fukien product. Then Amoy firms moved their tasters to Kiirun (Keelung), on the island, and for a time continued to store and ship the tea from Amoy. But the improvement and modernizing of Kiirun's harbor ended that practice.

Bulletin No. 1, March 3, 1924.

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A GROUP OF COUNTRY BELLES: BULGARIA

A holiday in a Bulgarian village brings out an array of gaudy costumes, straight and awkward in line, but most brilliant in color decoration. The women's big waists are usually emphasized by huge silver buckles, which stand out almost grotesquely. When, however, a girl is young and pretty, her abundant curly hair, into which is braided bright threads or ribbons, with often a flower behind her ear, her bright color heightened by the gay embroideries, and her slender figure, which the straightness of her dress cannot spoil, make her an attractive vision. (See Bulletin No. 5.)

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Miquelon, Forget-me-not of France's American Empire

MIQUELON, island group off the southern shore of Newfoundland, has come into special attention lately as something more than the lasting bit of France in North America.

A high French official promised that the islands shall not pass from France.

Secondly, many rum-ships, captured while hovering near the coast of the United States, are "officially" bound for St. Pierre-Miquelon.

A "Consolation Prize" for France

New France, which once meant most of the Missouri and Arkansas valleys and pretty much everything between the Ohio River and the North Pole, now means only the tiny granite-ribbed, fog-shrouded Miquelons. And even this poor parish that recalls a rich empire has had a stormy time of it remaining under the French flag.

It was captured from France by Great Britain before Wolfe's victory at Quebec, which marked the beginning of the end of French control in Canada; and when the defeated nation ceded its vast areas to Britain, the latter gave back the Miquelons as a sort of "consolation prize." The little islands were to serve as a base on this side of the Atlantic for the French fishermen who had built up an important industry on the Newfoundland banks as had the British themselves. The unsettled status of the islands continued to be an irritation, however, and between 1763 and 1815 they changed hands half a dozen times, sometimes being entirely depopulated. Since 1815 France has held undisputed control.

Once Leading Fishing Port of World

St. Pierre, the capital and chief port of the islands, became very prosperous as a result of the thriving French fisheries, and in 1884 it was the leading fishing port of the world. There were handsome homes in the little town. But the Miquelons' prosperity and gaiety were cut short by a prosaic factor, namely—bait. Affairs of empire in 1904 moved statesmen in Paris to sell the French treaty rights to catch small fish on the Newfoundland coast for some millions of francs and territory in Africa. The Newfoundland fishermen had been jealous of their French rivals on the banks, especially since a generous government subsidy enabled the French to underselt all competitors in the principal world markets. Newfoundland in retaliation passed the "Bait Act," which prohibited the sale of bait to ships of aliens, and from that time the prosperity of the islands has waned.

St. Pierre is now only a gray little village with a past but no apparent future. A quarter of the houses are vacant, and the quays, once thronged with vessels whose yard-arms interlocked, now have but a sprinkling of ships, even at the height of the fishing season. When bait was plentiful St. Pierre was a real base of operations. Now the decimated French fishing fleet operates from France, putting in at St. Pierre only incidentally. Economically these last of France's North American possessions amount to little; but France values them for the same reason that Great Britain has valued Newfoundland: as a field for the training of seamen, and therefore as a strengthener of her navy.

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metals and precious stones have been seized by conquerors. Pagans have looted the shrines of other pagans. Mohammedans looted Roman churches, including St. Peter's, in 846, and the churches of Constantinople in 1453. Sancta Sophia, after the break between the Western and the Eastern churches, was sacked by Western Christians during the Fourth Crusade; and the church vessels were taken or destroyed in many cases at the time of the Reformation.

Russian Churches Richest in Late Years

Russian church treasuries have been among the richest in existence in late years. When Russ envoys were sent out by the then semi-civilized state in 987 to choose a national religion, they were most impressed by the wealth and rich beauty of the services at Sancta Sophia. Since that time Russian churches have been marked by their wealth of ornamentation. Screens, reliquaries and canopies of precious metals were to be found in all of the well-to-do churches. In some of the richer institutions whole walls of sanctuaries were of silver and some floors were of jasper. Numerous icons were studded with jewels and some were almost completely covered with various precious stones. Some of the palls used were practically small rugs of gems.

Probably the wealthiest of all religious institutions in Russia was the Lavra or super-monastery at Kiev. Before the World War it had an annual income of half a million dollars and a well stocked treasury. The second most important institution, the Lavra of St. Sergius, near Moscow, had treasure with a pre-war value of about $325,000,000. At the Cathedral of St. Isaacs, St. Petersburg, there was more than a ton of silver in the form of ecclesiastical vessels, and in addition much gold.

Bulletin No. 2, March 3, 1924.

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ARGUMENTATIVE ALBATROSSES ON THE DECK OF THE "CARNEGIE"

When captured with hook and line and hauled on board, these great birds were prisoners, although never fettered or wing-clipped. They had not sufficient space to get the necessary running start preparatory to taking the air. One of the oddities of their life on shipboard was their susceptibility to seasickness, caused by the rolling motion of the vessel. The "Carnegie" was used to chart magnetic variations on all the seven seas. (See Bulletin No. 4.)

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Uncle Sam Charts the Compass

THE RECENT groundings of the world's two biggest ocean liners, the Leviathan and the Majestic, show how essential to the safety of the world's shipping is an intimate knowledge of the complicated tidal and current fluctuations of the world's most used harbors. The incidents emphasize the importance of one of the phases of the work of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

New York harbor is not a single waterway, but a series of communicating ones, with two "shipping" entrances to the sea. A territory larger than Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island together, drains into the Atlantic through three bays, four straits, and one large and several small tidal rivers. The fresh water from this large area complicates the problem of giving the navigator definite data as to flood and ebb and current so that he may safely maneuver his craft at all times.

Aids Navigation and Sewage Disposal

The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has given to navigators a definite picture of the conditions they must meet in berthing their great liners; to wharf engineers the information necessary to the proper arrangement of docking facilities; and to sanitary engineers new and basic data that has an important bearing on the problem of sewage disposal.

Working quietly on the great fundamental problems of navigation, the Coast and Geodetic Survey does not get into the headlines often so the world at large hears comparatively little of one of the most highly technical of the scientific bureaus of the United States Government.

And yet every ship that sails the seas, every passenger that comes into port, every article on the supercargo's manifest are served in a very concrete, if unsuspected, way by the Survey.

Two things the navigator must have if he is to bring his craft with its human and material cargo safely into port—a knowledge of the tricks of the compass and a picture of channel and harbor conditions.

Vagaries of a Compass Needle

The needle of the mariner's compass has been shown to be as full of vagaries as mid-March weather. Men used to think that it could always be depended on to point to the magnetic pole. But local affinities distract it from its proper affection in ways that are sometimes startling. If the sailor has a sweetheart in every port, the magnetic needle has equally as many attractions in more quarters. Looking at a magnetic declination chart we see deeply waved curves which proclaim loudly the influence of these affinities in weaning the needle away from the "straight and narrow" of its true direction. Magnetic surveys on the sea in general and along the coast in particular, are a supreme necessity in the accurate guidance of ships over the trackless ocean and into the world's ports.

Examining the line of the 15 degree west declination we find it sweeping over the sea in a northwesterly direction, with comparatively small variations from normalcy until it approaches the North Shore of Massachusetts. There it swings radically to the west, and as land is reached swings back until it points almost due northeast at more than a right angle to its recent position as it rounds the Cape Ann Peninsula.

UMI

A Breath of France in St. Pierre Street

The Miquelon archipelago consists of Grande Miquelon, some 12 miles long by six wide, Petite Miquelon or Longlade, a trifle smaller, and St. Pierre. only seven miles by two. In addition there are a number of tiny rocky inlets of little importance. St. Pierre, though the smallest of the three major islands, has always been the center of poulation because of its harbor. In the days of its prosperity the town had 6,000 residents and 10,000 additional Frenchmen sometimes thronged its streets during the fishing season. Now the village never sees more than 3,000 people at any time. Many of its discouraged residents have emigrated to the United States.

The visitor stepping ashore at St. Pierre, enters France as truly as when he disembarks at Calais or Bordeaux. The language is surprisingly pure and free from patois. Wooden houses with characteristic French windows and roofs line the streets. Natives clatter back and forth in wooden-soled shoes. Huckster children, quaintly dressed, peddle strings of cod-tongues from little wagons drawn by patient dogs. On every hand are shrines testifying to the religious nature of the Miquelaise.

Bulletin No. 3, March 3, 1924.

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DESPOILED DURING REVOLUTION

Broken and twisted candelabra, shattered windows, battered icons, crushed and trampled upon sacred vessels—such are the scenes which greeted the eye of the worshiper in many of the "forty times forty churches" of Moscow. (See Bulletin No. 2.)

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Karagatch, Given to Turkey, Taken from Greece

KARAGATCH, which recently saw the Grecian flag furled from its flagstaffs and the Turkish crescent flaunt gayly in its place, has long been a chattel or suburb of the larger city, Adrianople. And Adrianople, down at the heels though it is, has been the "apple-of-the-eye" of many a Turkish sultan, because it was the first city of any size which the Turks ever captured in Europe.

Turkey hesitated to accept the city in lieu of the cash indemnities, which she wanted, and Bulgaria has agonized over the settlement because with Turkey owning Karagatch and the Thalweg or channel of the Maritza, and with Greece owning most of the territory through which runs the Karagatch-Dedeagatch railroad, the Bulgarian outlet to the Aegean becomes seriously handicapped.

Recent reports say that the Greeks have moved out bag and baggage, leaving Karagatch dead and the corpse dismantled, their gutted houses looking down in their ruin and desolation upon the naked streets. They have gone out on the plain beyond to build near Ourli a city of their own, and have called it Orestias after one of their heroes at Troy, a name which they had formerly given to Karagatch.

An Occidental Suburb of the East

Karagatch, one of five suburbs of Adrianople, which lies to the west of the city near the confluence of the Arda and the Maritza, and is western in its general design, with detached residences in gardens, is of the modern European type. Adrianople, however, is distinctly Oriental in character and has for many years been a strongly fortified outpost of the Turks on the frontier of the Balkans.

The secret of the close relationship between Adrianople and Karagatch has lain during modern times in the fact that the large railway station of Adrianople is located in Karagatch, which lies on the opposite side of the Maritza and is connected with the city by a causeway two miles long. The approaches to the station of Karagatch are good, sidings are extensive, and it is well equipped with two military loading platforms, an engine-house, a freight shed, a water-tank and a coal depot.

The Price for Bulgarian Entry to World War

Incidentally this same bit of railroad from the Adriatic through Karagatch to the Bulgarian border, was the price which Bulgaria exacted for her entrance in the World War on the side of the Central Powers. When she received the whole line of the railway traversing Turkish territory together with Karagatch, Demotika, and Kuleli Burgas, she was irrevocably pledged to the Central Powers.

The Maritza, one of the largest rivers touching Bulgaria, flows between Adrianople and Karagatch, and sometimes when the waters are high the road leading from the station to the larger city is flooded. In its course of 300 miles from its source in the Balkans it drains a basin 20,790 square miles in area. At this particular point, just below where it is joined by its two main tributaries, the Trundja and the Arda, it is obstructed by rocks and sand bars, but below Adrianople it is navigable for small boats.

Many of history's pageants have been staged in ancient Adrianople, Karagatch's twin. Hadrian gave it his name; the Roman Emperor of the East,

UMI

Goes on "Spree" in New York

The same condition obtains in the 10 degree west declination which sweeps over the Atlantic toward New York. Approaching the waters between Long Island and Sandy Hook the needle adheres closely to its proper direction. But when it reaches the Hudson River it is pulled around until it seems to forget all about its fundamental affection and goes on a lark that causes it to swing around through almost or quite a quarter circle from its accustomed position.

No wonder a magnetic survey is needed to warn the mariner of the vagaries of the magnetic needle when it permits itself to fall so fully under the spell of the Great White Way that it wanders ninety degrees away from its path of solar duty.

The need of more thorough soundings in harbors and on rocky coasts also grows greater as the volume and complexity of shipping grows and the size of craft increases.

Soundings made with lead lines can be depended on to discover the main underwater elevations, but the waters off the New England shores, the Pacific shores and Alaska abound in pinnacle rocks—Washington Monuments of the sea. They rise to sharp points almost to the surface, which deflect a lead line, even though the lead may, on a slender chance, land on top of them.

Thus it came to be that they passed undiscovered and uncharted until some ship chanced to run afoul of one of them, as the U. S. Cruiser Brooklyn did in the harbor of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

How Wire Drag Is Used

To make soundings more accurate a wire drag has been evolved. It is stretched between two launches or other boats which run parallel to one another anywhere from 100 to 25,000 feet apart.

The lower wire sweeps through the water at a depth well below the keels of ships of the deepest drafts and any obstacle that rises above that depth is readily detected. A shipping of immense volume moves through the pinnacle and boulder-infested waters of the New England coast and the Survey is working aggressively with the limited funds at its disposal to finish its sweeping of these waters and to discover all such obstructions to navigation before they register their presence by tearing holes into the hulls of hapless liners.

Mud banks and sand bars must also be watched carefully; for the unceasing attack by winds, waves, and currents upon the shore cause, particularly in stormy weather, the water to be converted into a sort of huge mill in which the material wrested loose from its position is ground to sand and deposited elsewhere, filling up channels and obstructing navigation generally.

Automobiles and motor-boats have made heretofore inaccessible shores teem with the activities of civilization, and now knowledge of the laws of such shore evolution must be mastered and remedies found for conditions of erosion that menace life and property in the seaside communities.

Valens, met his death at the hands of the Goths before it; Huns, Greeks, Bulgars, and Crusaders have swept over and around it. The Turks captured it in 1361, and after that time until the fall of Constantinople it was the home of the Turkish Sultan—the basis of the sentiment which the Turks profess for it.

Though many travelers think that the great Suleimanieh at Constantinople is the most magnificent of the mosques of the East, the architect Sinan considered the mosque at Adrianople his best work. He is reported to have said that he designed the Shahzadeh in Constantinople when he was an apprentice, the great mosque of Suleiman when he was a journeyman, and the Selimieh of Adrianople when he was a master builder.

Karagatch was a Bulgarian suburb of the main town in the days before the World War, and the Maritza on which it stands flows picturesquely through Bulgarian legends and the national hymn of that country. The town is lighted by petroleum lamps, and from it there is a continual tramp of traffic over its two-mile causeway to the main part of the city.

Women's Costumes Are Heavy Burden

Back in the old days Bulgarian girls, and occasionally a married woman a little more daring than the rest, used to gather in some convenient place out-of-doors, where they were joined by the youths of the town and the village piper, for their favorite pastime—songs and dancing.

There they formed in line with the horovodka, or dance-leader, at one end. This young lady started the song and half the performers accompanied her, the other half repeating the verses after them. Then the next young lady in the line started another song, and so the fun continued until everyone had had a chance.

But the American girl would be utterly astonished to understand how the peasant women could dance because of the ponderous weight of their silver ornaments and their garments. One active English woman who invested in a full Bulgarian costume for a masquerade party found that she could endure the weight of it for only half an hour.

Bulletin No. 5, March 3, 1924.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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